

15. The computer data structure according to claim 13, wherein the first and second portions are positioned on either side of a decimal point.

16. A method for completing a data structure for use in identifying programs for computer-controlled manufacturing systems, wherein the programs comprise subsets organized with respect to one another in a hierarchical fashion, the subsets comprising a top-level subset and a plurality of lower-level subsets related hierarchically to the top-level subsets and to each other, the method comprising the steps of:

10 in a first portion for indicating a revision to the top-level subset of a program, inserting a first symbol indicating that such a revision has been made; and

15 in a second portion for indicating a revision to any of the plurality of lower-level subsets of the program, inserting a second symbol indicating that such a revision has been made.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the first portion comprises an identifier for the top-level subset, and the second portion comprises an identifier for the lower-level subset.

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18. The method according to claim 16, wherein the top-level subset comprises a main object.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the main object comprises a representation of a circuit board.

20. The method according to claim 18, wherein the lower-level subsets

s comprise sub-objects relative to the main object.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein the main object comprises a representation of a circuit board and the sub-objects comprise representations of components to be placed on the circuit board.

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22. A computer-implemented method for managing revisions to a program used in the control of a manufacturing system, the method comprising the steps of:

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identifying that a revision has been made to the program;

identifying whether the program, as revised, satisfies a preselected criterion; if the program, as revised, satisfies the preselected criterion, automatically selecting a version designator according to a preselected scheme; and

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automatically associating the selected version indicator with the program code.

23. The method according to claim 22, wherein the manufacturing system comprises an electronics assembly system.

24. A computer-implemented method for managing revisions to a program

- 5 used in the control of a manufacturing system supervised by at least one operator, wherein the manufacturing system is in communication over a network with a server coupled to a database containing the program, the manufacturing system and the server also being in communication over the network with at least one client device, the at least one client device
- 10 permitting communication with the server by a person authorized to do so in order to access the program, the program also being accessible via the server by the at least one operator through an interface associated with the manufacturing system, the method comprising the steps of:
- 15 detecting the occurrence of a revision to the program;

determining whether the revision to the program was made by a particular one of the at least one authorized person; and

- 20 if the revision was not made by a particular one of the at least one authorized person, sending a message over the network from the server to a client device to notify the particular person that the revision was made.